

Diocesan Youth Council

Youth members of the Diocesan Youth Council (DYC) are chosen from applicants in grades 9-11. They are charged by the Bishop to develop the purpose of youth ministry in the Diocese, recruit and encourage young people to come to The Episcopal Church, and plan and coordinate regular events for the Diocese. Current youth members are Meredith Brown (St. John's), Trey Brunson (St. Andrew's), McCulloch Cline (Grace-St. Luke's), Daniel Eldridge (St. Elisabeth's), Meagan Fairchild (Holy Communion), Cameron Kawell (Holy Apostles), Jessie Mills (St. Andrew's), Emmett Montgomery (Grace-St. Luke's), Marie Peeples (St. John's), Callie Smith (Grace-St. Luke's), Allyson Taylor (Holy Apostles), May Todd (Calvary). Current adult members are Heather Anderson (Calvary), Trip Gintz (St. John's), Penny Goldberg (Holy Apostles), Chandler Whitman (St. Philip), The Rev. René Somodevilla.

Feast of Lights – January 4, 2009 – St. Mary's Cathedral. Youth in grades 6-12 and their leaders gathered for fellowship prior to the worship service at the Cathedral celebrating the feast day of Epiphany. More than 100 youth were in attendance along with youth ministers, advisors, and clergy. The theme was "To seek for a King, was their intent" taken from the hymn "The First Nowell." The Rev. Jane Williams, chaplain at St. Mary's Episcopal School, spoke about the story and meaning of Epiphany, a Eucharist was celebrated by Bishop Johnson, and Philip George, member of the DYC and St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, gave the homily. The traditional singing of "We Three Kings" and the procession of the wise men was a highlight of the service.

Spring Fling – March 20-12, 2009 – St. John's Episcopal Church, Bartlett Lanes, & Pump It Up. Spring Fling is a lock-out for grades six through eight. Its purpose is to create excitement about youth ministry at the diocesan level and to foster fellowship among young people in our diocese. More than 70 youth were in attendance, along with youth ministers and advisors. The group bowled at Bartlett Lanes, bounced around at Pump It up, then returned to St. John's at 2:30am to play games, watch movies, or sleep in the Parish Life Center.

Fall Kick Off – August 22, 2009 – St. Columba. The Fall Kick Off features a cook out and the annual Water Olympics. It provides a fellowship opportunity for young people in grades 6-12 from throughout the diocese. More than 60 youth were in attendance, along with youth ministers and advisors.

Bishop's Bash – November 6-8, 2009 – Camp Pinecrest. Bishop's Bash is a weekend retreat that creates opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth for young people in grades 9-12. The DYC selected the theme and created workshops, talks, skits, and small group discussions. The theme was SNL – Salt-N-Light from Matthew 5:13-15 – "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." More than 50 youth were in attendance, along with youth ministers and advisors. The date for Bishop's Bash overlapped with Model UN and several sporting events, which impacted attendance. The Rt. Rev. Don Johnson and The Rev. Canon René Somodevilla served as spiritual directors.

Province IV Youth Network Meeting – November 19-22, 2009 – Gravatt Center in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Province IV hosts a Youth Network Meeting each November to provide youth and youth ministers with an opportunity to reach beyond what dioceses are doing individually and to communicate with other dioceses. The meeting provides a chance to listen; to share ideas, suggestions and concerns; and to develop ministry opportunities in which all of Province IV can participate. Each

diocese is invited to send one adult and two young people. Heather Anderson, Meredith Brown, and Cameron Kawell represented the Diocese of West Tennessee.